

ISSUE OF CHECK IN LIEU OF ONE LOST.

FEBRUARY 8, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BEALL, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3256.]

The Committee on Claims, having carefully considered the bill (H. R. 3256) directing the issue of a check in lieu of a lost check drawn by Thomas J. Hobbs, disbursing clerk, in favor of Crane & Co., of Dalton, Mass., beg leave to report the bill without amendment to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

It appears that Thomas J. Hobbs, disbursing clerk, Treasury Department, did, on the 8th day of July, 1903, issue a check, No. 40008, upon the assistant treasurer of the United States at New York, in favor of Crane & Co., for the sum of \$5,220, being in payment for distinctive paper furnished the United States Treasury Department, which check was mailed by the Treasury Department to said Crane & Co., and was lost in transmission through the United States mails; and the provisions of the act of February 16, 1885, amending section 3646, Revised Statutes of the United States, authorizing United States disbursing officers and agents to issue duplicates of lost checks, apply only to checks drawn for \$2,500 or less, so the bill provides:

That Thomas J. Hobbs, disbursing clerk of the Treasury Department, be instructed to issue a duplicate of said original check, under such regulations in regard to its issue and payment as have been prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for the issue of duplicate checks under the provisions of section thirty-six hundred and forty-six, Revised Statutes of the United States.

Appended is a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, recommending the passage of the bill, and also two affidavits pertinent to the case.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 9, 1904.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, inclosing H. R. 3256, being a bill directing the issue of a check in lieu of a lost check drawn by Thomas J. Hobbs, disbursing clerk, in favor of Crane & Co., of Dalton, Mass., with request to be furnished with facts and information relative thereto.

The bill is herewith returned with the information that it appears from the records of this Department that the facts relative thereto are as set forth in the preamble, and being in proper form the enactment of the bill into law is hereby recommended.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW, *Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS,
House of Representatives.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

Andrew T. Huntington, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is chief of the division of loans and currency of the Secretary's Office, Treasury Department, and as such is custodian of the distinctive paper used by the Government for printing paper money; that the manufacturers of said paper, under contract, are Crane & Co., of Dalton, Mass.; that in the ordinary course of business he received from said Crane & Co. on the 8th day of July, 1903, a bill for 1,000,000 sheets of distinctive paper delivered, the amount being \$5,220; that said bill was duly approved, and that in payment thereof a check was drawn by Thomas J. Hobbs, disbursing clerk, Treasury Department, on the 5th day of July, 1903, No. 40008, upon the assistant treasurer of the United States at New York in favor of said Crane & Co. for the sum of \$5,220; that the said check was delivered by Thomas J. Hobbs, disbursing clerk, to the division of loans and currency on the 9th day of July, 1903, and was duly mailed to Messrs. Crane & Co., of Dalton, Mass., on the same day.

ANDREW T. HUNTINGTON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a notary public in and for the District aforesaid, this 12th day of December, 1903.

[SEAL.]

JAS. N. FITZPATRICK, *Notary Public.*

DALTON, MASS., December 24, 1903.

Frederick G. Crane, of Dalton, Mass., being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a member of the firm of Crane & Co., paper manufacturers, of Dalton; that the said firm are contractors for the manufacture of distinctive paper for United States paper money; that in the ordinary course of business the said firm on July 6, 1903, transmitted by mail to the Secretary of the Treasury, division of loans and currency, a bill for 1,000,000 sheets of distinctive paper delivered, the amount thereof being \$5,220; that it is the custom of the Treasury Department to pay such bills with punctuality, and that all bills rendered by the said firm before and since the bill in question were duly paid; that no payment has been received by said firm or its representatives for the said bill forwarded on the 6th day of July, and that after diligent inquiry of the postmaster in Dalton, Mass., and of the proper officials of the Treasury Department the deponent firmly believes that the check for said bill was duly mailed to the firm of Crane & Co. and has been lost or destroyed in the mails.

FREDERICK G. CRANE.

S.—ss:

Personally appeared before me the above-named Frederick G. Crane and made oath that the foregoing statements are true according to his best knowledge and belief. Witness my hand and official seal this 24th day of December, 1903.

[SEAL.]

PAYSON E. LITTLE, *Notary Public.*